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HYBRID PEONIES

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Clinton
New York

1952-53

THE STRAINS offered here are arranged roughly by season, beginning with the earliest. My herbaceous hybrids advance the peony season into the spring by two to three weeks, beginning here about May 5. The last of them, the lobatas, begin early in June and bloom for two or three weeks; overlapping them come the tree peony lutea hybrids which then sometimes bloom belatedly into early July.

A word about prices: In general, lower prices indicate my older introductions, or those of which I have enough stock so that I can offer them more widely. Higher prices generally indicate the varieties that I have more recently introduced, or those of which I have very few roots available.

The names of several varieties are omitted from this present catalogue for the reason that my stock of them is so very low that I prefer to withdraw them for a year or two. I hope to add them again in a later list. Actually all my hybrids are always in very short stock, so that it will save time if you will indicate a **second choice**, or even grant me the privilege of substituting the most closely similar plant of equal value. Many of my friends leave it partially or entirely up to me to choose plants for them, and of course I am always glad to do this. Every care will be taken.

Peony shipping season September and October. Transportation prepaid. Prices are indicated in the list. Cash should accompany orders.

Directions for Planting

Failures with peonies are more often due to bad planting than to poor roots. The ground should be prepared in advance and must be **deeply dug**. Two feet is not too much; 18 inches is a minimum. Place six inches of old manure in the bottom of the hole; cover with a few inches of earth—the roots must not touch the **manure**—then set the plant, filling the hole with good friable loam. A covering of branches, loose straw, etc., for the first winter will protect the young plants from alternate freezing and thawing.

In the case of **herbaceous peonies** the buds should be placed so that they will be covered with two or three inches of soil.

Tree peonies and lutea hybrids should be planted at the depth at which they have been growing. In grafted plants the union between the understock and the scion should be three or four inches below the surface of the soil.

At best, however, peonies cannot be expected to give much bloom the first year after setting.

Herbaceous Peonies

HYBRIDS

Grouped according to their parent species and arranged roughly in order of blooming season.

These hybrids consist not only of crosses between *p. albiflora* and *p. officinalis* (the usual hybrid peonies of our shows) but of crosses between other species (many not hitherto used) from Botanical Gardens and private collectors in Europe and Asia. Such are: *Emodi*, from the Himalayas; *Mlokozewitschi* from the Caucasus; *obovata* from Japan, and others. (Some of these species are described on pages 8-9.)

The results have not always proved attractive in color or in habit; but of the many hundreds made, I have chosen the following list; they make, I hope, a considerable contribution of hardy, and lovely, and above all entirely new and distinct plants, which I think you will find worthy of the best company you can give them in your garden. It is my hope that they may spread into everybody's garden, lengthening by weeks the season of our peonies, and adding new interest to the growing of a beloved flower.

Woodwardi x tenuifolia

Earlybird. Sold as a strain. Generally the first peonies to bloom. The handsome plants have finely-cut foliage and an abundance of bright crimson flowers. \$5

Mlokozewitschi x tenuifolia

No. 6941. Fine light pink. Extremely early. Also among the first peonies to bloom. \$5

Playmate. Small bright rose-colored flowers held high like a bouquet above the finely-cut foliage. Recommended as a garden plant. \$10

Albiflora x macrophylla (tomentosa)

All very early—before the *officinalis* varieties.

Chalice. One of the largest. Pure white blooms, 8 to 9 inches across, with long silky stamens, rise erect on heavy stems about three feet tall. Very lovely. When it is in bloom, it is hard to notice any other flower. \$15

Seraphim. Abundant bloomer. White single. \$10

Celia. Semi-double with tuft of petals in the centre. Color light flesh with yellow cast. \$5

Shell Pink. A fine upstanding plant with single flowers of pale pink having a slight cast of yellowish green. Early and desirable. \$5

Albiflora x macrophylla, second generation

Fantasia. Single flesh pink, crinkled petals of great substance; grand foliage and stature. \$10

Serenade. Single; smooth-edged petals of heavy substance. Palest flush, with magnificent crown of stamens. Tall; superb carriage. \$10

Albiflora x macrophylla, second generation back cross

Requiem. Very tall. A perfect waxy white single bloom, held flat, with huge golden centre. Petals of heavy kid-like substance. Much admired. \$20

Albiflora x Wittmanniana

Elizabeth Cahn. Delicate white goblet; petals somewhat twisted, with underlay of faint green. \$5

Magnolia Flower. Named after the flower it most resembles. Large, mauve and cream. \$15

Albiflora x decora

Reward. Upright, very handsome. Flat single bloom; beautiful warm dark maroon. Early. \$5

Albiflora x decora alba

Silver Swan. Single. Palest pink, slightly fluted and fringed. Delicate and lovely. \$15

Officinalis x decora alba

Diantha. Very early. Plants rather dwarf. Delightful pale pink flowers, medium in size. \$10

Officinalis x lobata

These plants have a much better habit and stature than lobata itself and the flowers approximate the brilliant color of lobata. Being hybrids between closely related forms, they are fertile.

Scarlet Tanager. (*Officinalis rubra plena x lobata*) Tall plants. Blooms of true vermilion red. \$10

Little Dorrit (9002). Small flower of very unusual color: salmon with bright red flares. Outside petals light pink. Charming dwarf plant. \$10

Ladybird. Lovely cup of bright tomato-red color. Very early. \$5

Good Cheer. (*officinalis alba plena x lobata*) Clear light vermilion. First, Cleveland, 1951. \$10

Albiflora x single officinalis

Buccaneer. Like Challenger, but a lighter crimson. Very fine. First, Cleveland, 1951. \$5

Challenger. Tall dark crimson with bright yellow anthers. Garden Achievement Medal and Silver Medal of the American Peony Society. \$5

Defender. A very large dark mahogany crimson cup with a mass of silky stamens. Court of Honor, Syracuse, 1941. \$5

Liberator. Plant of enormous vigor and luxuriant foliage. The bright deep crimson flowers turn somewhat purple with age. Nevertheless a magnificent variety. \$5

Mariner. Single darkest maroon crimson, very beautiful color. Moderate height; fine carriage. \$5

Other hybrids between albiflora and forms of officinalis

Bordeaux. (albiflora x Sabini) Large claret-colored single. Great centre of yellow stamens and petaloids, some edged crimson. Effective and showy. \$10

Cavatina. A light bright cherry pink single. \$10

Edward Steichen. Superb variety. Magnificent dark red semi-double. The finest of this strain. \$20

Legion of Honor. Almost single flat flower of lustreless cherry scarlet. Light green foliage. Unusual. Court of Honor, Syracuse, 1941. \$5

Marta. Deepest mahogany red, with touches of white on edges of petals. Award of Merit, Mass. Hort. Soc.; Court of Honor, Syracuse, 1941. \$5

Mid May. Tall. Great flowers of pale apple-blossom pink. Perfectly rounded petals. Tousled centre of golden anthers. Very lovely. \$20

Postilion. Enormous flower of deep scarlet crimson. Very brilliant. Semi-double flat cup. \$15

Rosy Wreath. Single light pink Cup. Charming. \$10

Albiflora x anomala, second generation

Echo. Faint lavender pink. A lovely regular flower of great substance, held erect. One of our customers reports it as growing five feet high. \$20

Albiflora x Ozieri alba

Halcyon. A quite new race of hybrids, sold as a strain only. Fine carriage with stout stems. Flowers of heavy substance, faint mauve on greenish ivory ground, with dark flares. Unique and beautiful. \$15

Albiflora x coriacea

Lavender. Also a new race, and also sold as a strain only. The color is a beautiful lilac, becoming more and more delicate as the flower ages. \$10

Veitchi x Emodi

Early Windflower

These two strains are almost exactly alike, except that one blooms near the beginning of peony season, the other about ten days later. The plants are graceful and unusual. The flowers, like white anemones, are slightly

Beresowskyi x Emodi

Late Windflower

nodding and are borne on tall stems. The foliage is fern-like, and very handsome. Sold as a strain only, the plants in each group being all closely alike. Each, \$5

Albiflora x Emodi

White Innocence (formerly Innocence). Very tall, 4½ feet, of graceful stature, each swaying stem carrying four or five single pure white flowers, with greenish-white centres of transformed stamens. Unique and lovely as a garden plant. \$20

Albiflora x Otto Froebel

The plants cover themselves with gaily held flowers in new and fresh shades of pink, charming for cutting or in the garden.

Anniversary. Fringed flowers of clear pink. Very attractive. \$10

Birthday. Like a huge pale pink Shirley poppy slightly fringed. Sensation, Boston, 1935. \$5

Fidelity. Lovely salmon flesh color. Single. \$5

Good Will. One of the last in bloom of this strain. Almost double, bright rosy pink. \$10

Hope. Semi-double, an exquisite flower, of an intense pure rose color. Sometimes full double. \$5

Mercy. Beautiful salmon rose cup. Attractive. \$5

Albiflora x lobata

This race of hybrids contains many beautiful pink and red colors we have so long desired in the Chinese peonies—flesh, cherry, salmon, coral and rose pinks to clear bright crimsons, with no hint of purple and never a bad color in all the hundreds that have bloomed. I think this is the most brilliant and effective strain of hybrid peonies yet produced. A gold medal was awarded for a group of these at the National Peony Show, Boston, 1947, and at the New York Shows in 1948 and 1949.

Alert. Brilliant crimson single. \$5

Bravura. Shining light crimson with white flares on the outside of the petals. Charmingly crinkled, and of fine form. \$5

Cardinal's Robe. Shining scarlet single. Very striking color. Award of Merit, Mass. Hort. Soc., 1947. Court of Honor, New York, 1948. \$15

- Cecilia.** Light bright cherry, fringed. Enormous goblet. One of the best. First Class Certificate, Mass. Hort. Soc., 1947. \$10
- Claudia.** Tall erect semi-double goblet, 3½ to 4 feet. Opens light cherry, becoming pale salmon pink. \$15
- Constance Spry.** Magnificent bright cherry semi-double. \$15
- Coralie.** Cherry single, unusual. A beauty. \$10
- Elizabeth Foster.** Single rose pink flat cup. Large and brilliant. \$10
- Ellen Cowley.** Bright Cherry semi-double roseette. Lovely. \$10
- Emblem.** Single deep lustreless red flowers of fine substance. Floriferous and very early. \$10
- Fortune.** Rounded goblet of bright rose with wide white flares outside and coral pink warmth inside. \$10
- Gillian.** Like the popular Janice, but earlier, and an even lighter pink. Flowers tending sometimes towards double. Erect, perfect carriage. \$10
- Grace Root.** Clear light salmon pink cup-shaped single. Much admired at Boston Show, 1940. \$5
- Great Lady.** Single or slightly semi-double. High-held widely-expanded blooms of China pink. Fine garden plant. \$10
- Heritage (15175).** Lustreless crimson red; magnificent rose-bomb double. \$15
- Janice.** Tall erect variety bearing good-sized flowers of a charming pale salmon pink color. One of our most popular peonies. Early. \$5
- Julia Grant.** Semi-double. Very fine clear pink. First Class Certificate, Mass. Hort. Soc., 1947. \$15
- Laura Magnuson.** Large cup-shaped clear bright rose, semi-double. Late for this strain. Best Hybrid, National Peony Show, 1949. \$15
- Lovely Rose.** Deep creamy pink semi-double. Unique quality of color. Court of Honor, New York, 1949. \$10
- Ludovica.** Clear rose pink. Very large semi-double cup. One of the best. Bronze Medal, and First Class Certificate, Mass. Hort. Soc., 1947. \$10
- Montezuma.** Bright crimson goblet with two rows of shining rounded petals. Large heavy stems and foliage. Very tall. Sensation, New York, 1950. \$15
- Nadia.** Wide-spreading cherry pink blossom, with slightly crinkled petals. Late for this strain. \$10
- Nathalie.** Magnificent flat bloom almost full double, brilliant salmon rose. First, Hybrids, Minneapolis, 1951. \$10

Olivia Saunders. Tall. Single goblet held high, opening light cherry, becoming exquisite pale pink, paler even than Janice. \$15

Paladin. Very glowing carmine-red; loosely double. \$5

Red Red Rose. Bright satin crimson-scarlet bomb. \$10

Rose Diamond. Tall upraised cup of clear salmon rose. Single. Petals folded in a pointed fashion, which gives great style to the flower. Rather late. \$10

Rose Garland. China pink single cup. Conspicuous outside white flares streaked pink. Rather dwarf. A delightful little plant. \$10

Rose Tulip. Flowers erect, tall, like pink tulips. Unusual. \$15

Rosy Cheek. Upright. Slightly semi-double. Very special color: deepest rose at base of petals, growing light towards the tips. \$15

Skylark. High-held goblets of clearest pink. \$5

Sophie. Brightest cherry; upstanding; large semi-double cup. Fine centre. First Class Certificate, Mass. Hort. Soc., 1947. \$10

Your Majesty. Imposing, erect carriage, 4 to 5 feet. Vivid red goblets. \$15

Triple hybrids in which *albiflora*, *officinalis* and *macrophylla* are combined

Burgundy. Blackish-purple petals of heavy substance. Lustreless and crinkled. Brilliant yellow stamens. Noble carriage. \$10

Campagna. Deep white goblet with greenish shadows. Filled with a mass of bright gold anthers. Petals slightly fringed and crinkled. A lovely flower, and an outstanding garden plant. \$10

Herald. Enormous shining red flower, so brilliant as to be striking. Covers itself with bloom. \$10

Pageant. Huge light pink flower, with an enormous cluster of stamens. Tall, upstanding. Conspicuously beautiful. \$10

Varieties of uncertain parentage

Horizon. Large, very pale flesh color. Single. Huge centre of golden stamens. Tall. Outstanding. \$10

Patriot. Bright crimson goblet held high. Pure color. Tall, vigorous plant. First, Hybrid Herbaceous, New York, 1948. First, Single Hybrid, National Peony Show, 1952. \$15

New Quadruple Hybrids

These are my newest race of all, combining four species: *albiflora*, *officinalis*, *macrophylla* and *Mlokosewitschi*. The latter gives them all a golden-ivory undertone, that groups them in a class by themselves. They are also extremely early, blooming with my first hybrids. For the present I can offer only the following:

Bright Diadem (16293). Flowers not large, but a very deep golden ivory with greenish tints. \$20

Early Daybreak (formerly **Daybreak**) (16320). Old ivory, flushed rose. Very sturdy grower. \$20

Firelight (16220). Intensest bright pink with brilliant darker flares. Huge flat bloom, heavy substance, semi-double. Extremely striking. Sensation, New York, 1952. \$20

Starlight (16285). Two rows of creamy ivory petals, faintly flushed in centre. Very lovely. \$20

To these, I can now add the following triple hybrids, in which *albiflora*, *tenuifolia* and *Mlokosewitschi* are combined. These bloom early with the quadruple hybrids.

Roselette (16064). Enormous flowers of a clear and lovely pink, unusual for the season. Great bloomer. \$20

Rushlight (16363). Single, clear ivory yellow with golden centre. Great substance. \$20

Sprite (16339). Exquisite apple-blossom-like flower. Creamy, flushing into pale rose at the edges. Erect carriage. \$20

PEONY SPECIES

I offer a few species some of which are not easy to obtain true to name.

anomala. I can offer a few seedling plants of this interesting species, which I think I have true to name. It is a very different plant from *Smouthi*, which is often sold as *anomala*. The flowers of the true species are purplish in color, somewhat nodding and not much to look at, but of botanical interest. \$5

Emodi. The Himalayan peony. With nodding white flowers and extremely handsome foliage. A beautiful species. \$5

lobata (*officinalis lobata*). A variable plant, typically brilliant vermilion. \$5

macrophylla (tomentosa). A very large-leaved species from the Caucasus region. Flowers white; one of the first of all peonies in bloom. \$5

Mlokosewitschi. The only truly yellow herbaceous peony and one of the most beautiful of hardy plants. A very early bloomer. Although not always certain to succeed, it should at least be tried in every garden. \$10

Russi major. Flowers pink, of an unusually clear color for a species. \$10

tenuifolia. The old fern-leaved peony. Very early, dwarf, flowers brightest crimson. I have rubra, rubra plena, and rosea (pink). Each, \$5

triternata. Very early. Light mauve pink flowers. Foliage waved. A plant worth having. \$5

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Tree Peonies

Although I am engaged in raising and selling only my own **hybrid** tree peonies, I do have a few specimens of the familiar Japanese tree peonies—large, established plants of five to ten years growth—which I can offer, unnamed, **by color only**, at from \$10 to \$25 according to size and quality.

My friend, Mr. William Gratwick, Pavilion, New York, has a large stock of Japanese tree peonies which he offers by name. They represent his own selections, carefully made from hundreds of imported varieties. We have collaborated for many years and I am delighted to recommend his nursery.

TREE PEONY SPECIES

Paeonia lutea is the wild yellow tree peony from Southern China. Flowers 2 to 3 inches wide, like an enlarged buttercup, with a lily-like fragrance; foliage fernlike, very handsome. A beautiful and unusual plant. The flowers vary from clear yellow through tones of orange, equally attractive. In ordering, please specify if **only yellow** is desired. \$5

Paeonia Delavayi is similar to *p. lutea*, but reddish in tone. \$5

TREE PEONY HYBRIDS

Crosses between the **Japanese Tree Peony** (*p. moutan* or *suffruticosa*) and *p. lutea* or *p. Delavayi*.

Argosy. Clear sulphur yellow, single, 6 to 7 inches across, with plum-colored dash at base of petals. Garden Achievement Medal, Boston; First Class Certificate, Mass. Hort. Soc.; Court of Honor, Syracuse, 1941. \$10

Besides Argosy I have some seventy other varieties worthy to be named and put on the market. Hitherto, I have offered, at \$15, one-year grafts. These are proving so uncertain that I have decided to offer only larger plants (two or more years old) at \$25 each, strongly recommending these in preference to the younger plants.

I have been disappointed for several years now in the results of propagation—at the best, uncertain—so that I am still in very short stock of all varieties. Because of this, and because these hybrids fall rather naturally into a few large color groups, I have listed them below by color, with the suggestion that when ordering you specify, where possible, a **group number only**. I will try to send the best plant available in the group.

1. THE "ROMAN GOLD" GROUP. Yellow, clear or almost clear. Generally single.

Amber Moon. Deep soft yellow, edged and flushed crimson. Early and large. Fine garden plant.

Arcadia. Palest yellow, flared dark. Good carriage.

Canary. One of the very brightest. Sensation, National Peony Show, 1952.

Golden Bowl. Cup-shaped, good substance. Deep flares.

Goldfinch. Delightful small all-yellow flowers.

Nankeen. Very pale, with almost black centre. Flowers distinctly fluted, held well above foliage. Much style.

Narcissus. All-yellow, with faintest flush in centre. Fine little flower.

Roman Gold. Brilliant yellow flower, flared dark. Beautiful form and substance. 72 blooms on one plant have been reported.

Silver Plane. Creamy color of fine substance. Plum-colored flares. Graceful, level flower.

Silver Sails. Pale silvery yellow, faintly flushed. Heaviest substance. Exquisite.

Stardust. The plant covers itself with small yellow flowers. Charming.

Wings of the Morning. Very large; pale with greenish tone, flared crimson. Petals crinkled.

2. THE "GOLDEN HIND" GROUP. Yellow, clear or almost clear. Generally semi- or fully double.

Age of Gold. Flat rosette of intense bright gold. Like a ruffled camellia flower.

Alhambra. Clear warm gold, crinkled. Dark flares.

Celestial. Pale yellow, edged palest rose. Almost black flares. Bronze foliage.

Daffodil. Small perfect rosette of purest yellow color. Lovely.

Gold Dust. Floriferous plant; many small flowers with creamy hearts.

Golden Hind. Superb fluffy 7-8 inch blooms of deep cream yellow, flared dark. Court of Honor, New York, 1949.

Golden Isles. Brilliant color; almost black flares.

Gold Sovereign. Exquisite bright gold flat rosette with golden heart.

High Noon. Intense lemon yellow; good carriage.

Hyperion. Light clear color; cup-shaped flowers.

Nereid. Palest yellow with silvery edges. Open-faced flowers.

Orion. Brilliant warm gold, flared. Dark foliage.

Spanish Gold. Clear yellow double. Brilliant.

3. THE "TEA ROSE" GROUP. Generally yellow, but tinted and suffused reddish. Single to double.

Angelet. Yellow delicately edged rose, deep maroon centre. The slightly fluted, very finished flowers held high above the foliage.

Apricot. Like its name; dusky rose tones. Silver gray foliage. Flowers held high.

Brocade. Red-gold single; deep wine flares. Late-blooming plant of great style and substance.

Countess. Deep tea-rose single; fine quality.

Damask. Buff yellow with deep red stains.

Festival. Pale creamy yellow, edged and flushed rose. Almost double flat rosette. Very finished.

Golden Mandarin. Old gold, stained very dark maroon.

Happy Days. Very many small golden-rosy flowers, edged red. Copper foliage.

Harvest. Color of ripe grain. Petals furled, and edged rosy. Semi-double. Very decorative.

Holiday. Full double rosette. Cream, edged rose.

Marchioness. Soft yellow tea-rose single. Beautiful form, style and substance.

Pastoral. Lovely clear rose on pale yellow. Charming.
Segovia. Tawny yellow flat open single. Unusual.
Spring Carnival. Gold, edged strawberry red, with dark flares.
Sunrising. Warm yellow, almost orange in color.
Tea Rose. Lovely; unusual color of warm light amber.
Titania. palest yellow, fading to white at edges, flushed rose. Like a more delicate Festival.

4. THE "BANQUET" GROUP. Generally reddish, but with yellow undertones. Single to double.

Banquet. Shining flat rosette; brilliant dark centre.
Chinese Dragon. Bright red, fringed and crinkled. Dark flares. Large golden centre. Semi-double.
Conquest. Immense flat strawberry-red flower, lighted with yellow.
Copper Rose. Loose, semi-double strawberry-red, edged cream. Dark flares.
Hesperus. Dusky rose overlaid pale yellow. Curious and exquisite color. Sensation, New York, 1949.
Regent. Almost perfect double; reddish, suffused yellow. Handsome.
Renown. Bright light copper-red; yellow undertone. Often very late. Fine, New York, 1949.
Right Royal. Large double rosy red, fringed. Crimson flares. Striking.
Rose Flame. Full, lovely flower; unusual deep rose.
Summer Night. Dusky dark rose; semi-double.
Trophy. Strawberry red flat double flower.

5. THE "BLACK PIRATE" GROUP. Crimson to very dark almost black maroon. Single to double.

Black Douglas. Double rosette, almost black maroon. Floriferous.
Black Panther. Like a semi-double Black Pirate. Large, with big golden heart.
Black Pirate. Very dark mahogany red single, with black stains at base of petals. Vote of Commendation, Mass. Hort. Soc.
Charioteer. Very near Black Pirate in color; stained lighter red. Flat, open bloom. Fine satiny texture.
Corsair. One of the darkest of all; single; slightly frilled. Black flares at base of petals.

- Daredevil.** Fine bright garnet-red single. Large.
- Heart of Darkness.** One of the very rare second generation plants of this cross. Almost black and of heaviest substance.
- Lombard.** Single, deep red plum-color. Fine substance.
- Monitor.** Clear shining dark red; brilliant centre. Almost double flat rosette.
- Phoenix.** Catawba color. Very dark centre.
- Red Cloud.** Dusky mahogany red. Strange and interesting new color.
- Red Currant.** Large shining crimson. Bronze foliage. First, Hybrid Tree Peonies, New York, 1948.
- Red Jade.** Dark red, large flat single flower.
- Thunderbolt.** Black crimson, streaked scarlet crimson. Much style.
- Vesuvian.** Very dark red, full double, furled and fringed.
- 6. THE "MYSTERY" GROUP.** Ivories, pearly shades, suffused mauves. Single to double.
- Coronal.** Deep ivory and pale yellow, edged and flushed with rose.
- Harlequin.** Small flowers, varying between mauve and cream.
- Infanta.** The only white in the list. Small flowers with deep purple flares. Heavy substance.
- Melody.** Palest mauve over ivory. Plum-colored flares. Large single flowers.
- Mystery.** Large flower of pearly lavender, with darker shading, varied with palest green.
- Princess.** Semi-double mauve suffused with golden sheen. Pale gold centre. A beauty.
- Savage Splendor.** Ivory ground, flashed and edged purple. Darkest maroon centre. The twist and flare in the petals make it unique. Very striking.
- Tiger Tiger.** New orange-red color. Semi-double.

